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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Biopharm Plant in Langenhennersdorf (K 51/F 47) was the first plant to start penicillin production in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Early in 1949 the plant passed from experimental production to mass production. At first, only some 100 million units were produced each month. However, it was planned that a monthly production capacity of one billion units would be reached early in 1950. According to recent reports, the Langenhennersdorf Plant as an experimental endeavor has been a complete failure but, on the other hand, it is said to be still in operation.
2. The Jenapharm Plant in Jena (K 51/J 66) is the main penicillin plant. After an improved process for the production of crystal clear penicillin had been developed in the Institute for Microbiology, the initial monthly production target was set at 50 billion units for the period ending in late 1949. Monthly production was scheduled to be increased to 80 billion units during 1950. Thus, the Jenapharm Plant would be able not only to meet the total requirements of the zone and the SCC requisitions but also to make substantial exports to the Eastern Bloc. Actually a monthly production of 60 billion units was reached by the end of February 1950. However, production then had to be suspended for several months because the culture media had been polluted allegedly because the injection of unsterilized air into the boilers had destroyed or inactivated the mold penicillin cultures. Apparently it was not ascertained whether this was an act of sabotage. At least 40 billion units have been inactivated because of decontamination. The Jenapharm Plant must have resumed production in the summer or fall of 1950. The Soviet confiscation of a two-month production of the plant in September was reported, but this seems to be inaccurate as far as the date is concerned. It obviously refers to an earlier confiscation of inactivated culture media when the Soviets investigated possible sabotage.
3. The Ladamus Pharma Plant in Radebeul (K 52/F 19) is another important penicillin producing enterprise. It also resumed production in 1949. About 20 billion units had been produced by the end of 1949. The initial production target for 1950 was 50 billion units. The final target is to treble the 1949 production. Late in 1949 at least 5 billion units were produced monthly.
4. The Schering Plant in Berlin-Adlershof at least temporarily produced a small amount of penicillin. The plant produced 1.3 billion units from January to the beginning of May 1950. Penicillin production was allegedly suspended by the middle of May 1950, but was resumed again shortly before September 1950. The Chemical Plant in Gruenau (K 53/Z 93), the Pharmaceutical Plant in Goerlitz (O 52/D 00), and the Asid-Sorum Institute in Dessau (K 52/E 17) are also said to

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have made penicillin production tests.

5. The quality of the penicillin produced is said to be satisfactory in general though the production process and potency of the cultures used is allegedly inadequate. The maximum monthly production at present can be estimated as only 90 billion units, even if the Langenhennersdorf Plant and the Schering Plant in Berlin are in operation, the Jonpharm Plant in Jena has reached the scheduled monthly target of 80 billion units, and the production of the Madaus Plant in Madeboul is included. A very substantial portion of this total is diverted to reparations. 25X1

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